19.g.4(a)

THE COVENANT OF THE *Baptized Church of Christ,* MEETING IN HOSIERS-LANE, Reading, Berks.

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1799.

THE COVENANT,

&c.

WE who desire to walk together in the fear of the Lord, do, through the assistance of his Holy Spirit, desire sincerely to profess our deep and serious humiliation for all our iniquities, transgressions, and sins; whereby we have justly provoked the Great and Holy God to depart from us, and to pour fourth his wrath and fury upon us: do therefore humbly

humbly implore the free and full forgiveneſs of them all, through the blood of his dear Son, our only Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; as alſo the thorough renovation and ſanctification of our whole ſouls, ſpirits, and bodies —that ſo we may be to him a peculiar people zealous of good works. In order whereunto, we do, as in the preſence of the Great and Holy God, the Searcher of all Hearts; in the deep ſenſe of our own unworthineſs, with one conſent, ſolemnly and ſincerely give up ourſelves: firſt, to the Lord, then to each other by the Will of God; that he may be our God, and we his people, through the everlaſting Covenant of his Free Grace: in which

alone

alone we hope to be accepted through his Bleſſed Son Chriſt Jeſus; whom we take to be our High Prieſt to juſtify and ſanctify us, and our Prophet to teach us and to ſubject to him as our Lawgiver and King of Saints; and to conform to all his holy laws and ordinances, for our growth, eſtabliſhment, and conſolation: that we may be a holy people unto him, and ſerve him in our generation, and wait for his ſecond appearance as our Glorious Bridegroom.

Being fully ſatisfied that a company of Baptized Believers, united together in a holy band, by ſpecial and voluntary agreement,

ment, who by the Grace and Power of Chriſt in their Hearts, under the conviction of their Duty, do give up themſelves to the Lord, and to each other by the Will of God, to live and walk together as Saints—in Love, Peace, and conſtant Celebration and Practice of all the Laws and Worſhips of Chriſt—in Obedience to his Holy Will—to his Glory and their own Spiritual Profit—is a Goſpel Church of Divine Inſtitution, as appears from the Sacred Word of God.

We do, therefore, in the Name, and by the Authority of our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, the great Sovereign Lord and Lawgiver

to

to his Church, teſtify our profeſſed Subjection to him as ſuch; ſolemnly join ourſelves together in a holy union and fellowſhip: profeſſing in his ſtrength humbly to ſubmit to the Diſcipline of the Goſpel; together with all Holy Duties required of a people in ſuch a Spiritual Relation, as

Firſt of all, To walk in all holineſs, godlineſs, and brotherly love, as much as in us lieth: to render our communion delightful to God, comfortable to ourſelves, and lovely to other the Lord's People; as alſo convincing to the World.

Secondly,

Secondly, To watch over each other's converſation, not to ſuffer ſin upon one another, ſo far as God ſhall diſcover it to us, or any of us; and to provoke one another to love and good works: to warn, rebuke, and admoniſh one another with meekneſs according to the rules of Chriſt left in that behalf.

Thirdly, in an eſpecial manner, To pray one for another, and for the glory and increaſe of this Church, and for the Preſence of God in it; and for the pouring forth of his Spirit upon it, and his Protection of it to his Glory.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, To bear one another's burthens: to cleave one to another, and to have a fellow feeling with one another in all conditions, both outwardly and inwardly as God in his wiſe Providence ſhall be pleaſed to caſt any of us into.

Fifthly, To bear with one another's weakneſſes, failings, and infirmities; and that with much tenderneſs; not diſcovering to any without the Church, or to any within, unleſs according to Chriſt's rule and order provided in that caſe.

Sixthly, As much as in us lieth, to live peaceably with all men, and to follow after

after the things that make for peace—by carefully avoiding all cauſes and cauſers of diviſions: to keep the unity of the ſpirit in the bond of peace—by receiving into our affection and communion ſuch whom our Gracious God hath received into his love and favour.

Seventhly, To meet together on Lord's Days, and all other ſuch times, ſeaſons, and places, as the Lord ſhall give us opportunity and ability to ſerve and glorify him; and in the way of his worſhip, to edify and build up one another upon our moſt Holy Faith; and to contrive as the

good of his intereſt in general, ſo of this Church in particular. As,

Eighthly, Always to endeavour to the utmoſt of our capacity, to promote and encourage, and preſerve a holy, regular, and gifted miniſtry, to take the charge of us; to go in and out before us, as the ſhepherd before the flock; together with all ſuch other offices as are by Chriſt appointed in his Church, for the maintaining of Holy Orders, in the regular diſcharge of all acts and diſciplines according to Chriſt's appointment.

Theſe and all other Goſpel Duties we humbly

humbly ſubmit unto; profeſſing and purpoſing to perform, not in our own ſtrength, (being conſcious of our weakneſs) but in the power and ſtrength of our ever Bleſſed God, through his Son Chriſt Jeſus; whoſe we humbly hope we are, and whom we deſire for ever to ſerve.

FINIS.

1.9.4(5)

AN ABSTRACT

OF SOME OF

THE ACTS OF PARLIAMENT,

NOW IN FORCE AGAINST THE

Profanation of the Lord's Day,

Profane Swearing, Drunkenness,

Tippling, &c.

WITH A BRIEF ADDRESS ON THESE SUBJECTS,

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

FORMED AT READING,

FOR PROMOTING THE DUE OBSERVANCE

OF

THE LORD's DAY, &c.

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